

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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FOL RPT OSLO 3638 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA ATHENS BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE LISBON LONDON MOSCOW OTTAWA PARIS
LUXEMBOURG REYKJAVIK ROME 12 AUG 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T OSLO 3638

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NO

SUBJ: ALLIANCE EAST-WEST STUDY-REQUEST FOR NORWEGIAN CONTRIBUTIONS

REFS: (A) STATE 183303 (B) NATO 07378 (C) NATO 07699

1. EMBASSY OFFICER, IN AUG 10 MEETING WITH NATO OFFICE
DIRECTOR WICKBERG, RAISED QUESTION OF NORWEGIAN STUDY
CONTRIBUTIONS (PARA 3, F-1, F-2, REFTEL A). WICKBERG,
NOTING THAT AMBASSADOR BENNETT HAD TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON THE MATTER
IN HIS AUG 8 MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WAS CAREFUL
TO AVOID ANYTHING THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS A COMMITMENT.

2. IN DICUSSING THE NORTHERN FLANK QUESTION, WICKBERG
ECHOED THE EARLIER NORWEGIAN RESPONSE (REFTEL B), POINTING
OUT THAT A STUDY OF THIS SORT REQUIRED GREATER RESOURCES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 196608

THAN THE GON COULD MARSHAL. WHEN EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT
THE CURRENT REQUEST WAS NOT FOR NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN
THE FULL STUDY OF MILITARY POWER IN SOVIET EXTERNAL POLICIES,
BUT RATHER FOR A CONTRIBUTION TO THAT STUDY IN THE FORM OF
AN EXAMINATION OF THE TRENDS IN SOVIET ACTIVITY ALONG THE
NORTHERN FLANK, WICKBERG APPEARED A LITTLE LESS SQUEAMISH.
HE REMARKED THAT SUCH AN EXAMINATION WOULD BE "TELLING OUR

OWN STORY." (IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, HE REMARKED THAT SUCH AN EXAMINATION, EVEN IN BRIEF FORM, WOULD AMOUNT TO A MAJOR POLICY PAPER.)

3. IN REGARD TO THE EAST-WEST TRADE CONTRIBUTION , WICKBERG SEEMED LESS UNEASY BUT DID WONDER ALOUD IF NORWAY REALLY HAD SO MUCH TO OFFER IN THIS SPHERE.

4. WICKBERG DID NOT APPEAR TO BE CONVERSANT WITH LATEST FORM OF THE STUDY OUTLINE. ACCORDINGLY, ON AUG 11, EMBOFF DESCRIBED THIRD REVISED STUDY OUTLINE (REF C) TO WICKBERG IN EFFORT TO PLACE PROPOSED NORWEGIAN CONTRIBUTION IN PROPER OVER-ALL PERSPECTIVE.

5. THE REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STUDY HAS EVIDENTLY OCCASIONED SOME DECREE OF HAND-WRINGING IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, AGREED TO CONSULT AMONG THEMSELVES ON THE MATTER ADND TO GIVE THE EMBASSY A TIMELY REPLY.
BREMER

UNQUOTE VANCE

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